

dry eye find the condition to be an uncomfortable nuisance, with many characteristics of a "chronic pain" type of syndrome.

One study showed that dry eye patients experienced an average of 184 days of reduced productivity in a year. Although dry eye syndrome cannot be cured, there are a variety of available treatments. However many people with dry eye continue to suffer needlessly because they are unaware of their options. Both dry eye and Sjögren's seriously endanger women's health.

Sjögren's syndrome is a painful and debilitating autoimmune disease which causes the immune system to attack its own lubricating glands, such as tear and salivary glands. Sjögren's is one of the most prevalent autoimmune disorders, and although it affects people of all ages, 9 out of 10 patients are women, and the average age of onset is late forties. The hallmark symptoms are dry eyes and dry mouth, but Sjögren's may also cause dryness of other organs, affecting the kidneys, GI tract, blood vessels, lungs, liver, pancreas, and the central nervous system. Patients with Sjögren's syndrome are also 40 times more likely to develop lymphoma.

Marking July as Dry Eye Awareness Month will bring more attention to this widespread and potentially debilitating condition. I thank the Minnesota members of the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation and the National Women's Health Resource Center for bringing this issue to my attention and thank them for their efforts to educate the public about this serious health concern.

#### THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the Burlington, VT, Boys and Girls Club prepares to begin an ambitious capital fundraising campaign this summer, I am proud to give my strong support to this important organization. As a long-time supporter of this organization in Vermont and across the country, I wish them the best of success in their efforts, and I commend them for striving to continually improve their organization and Vermont's communities.

Through this campaign, the Burlington Boys and Girls Club plans to strengthen its resources with the addition of high-speed Internet access at the club, as well as a multimedia center where members can become proficient in current technology. This is a critical component of success for young people in our increasingly technological society. The club will also reinforce its dedication to creativity through the addition of a visual and performing arts space where members will be able to pursue their artistic expression. These are just a few of the admirable goals set out for this campaign, and I am confident they will be achieved.

The Boys and Girls Clubs around the country are a leading example of how

the support and care of our young people benefits American society, one boy and one girl at a time. The Boys and Girls Clubs have proven that when we show our young people that we care about them and that we care about their futures, they respond with positive and constructive actions in their communities.

We also know the Boys and Girls Clubs provide a healthy alternative for many young people and oftentimes prevent them from being drawn into gangs, drug abuse, and other crime. The clubs instill leadership qualities, respect, and thoughtfulness in participants through programs that include art, athletics, help with schoolwork, technology, life skills, training in resistance to drugs and alcohol, and community service. In providing these valuable programs during critical development periods when young people are most vulnerable, the Boys and Girls Clubs fill a void and reduce the opportunity to succumb to negative influences. The Boys and Girls Clubs represent the best of what communities can do to improve the lives of their young people.

I know firsthand how well Boys and Girls Clubs work and what topnotch organizations they are. When I was a prosecutor in Vermont, I was convinced of the great need for Boys and Girls Clubs because we rarely encountered children from these kinds of programs. In fact, after I became a U.S. Senator, a police chief was such a big fan that he asked me to help fund a Boys and Girls Club in his district rather than helping him pay for a couple more police officers.

Over the years, I have worked with other members of the Senate to make sure the Boys and Girls Clubs around the country have the funding necessary to carry out their mission. Since 1998, we have worked to steadily increase Federal funding for the Boys and Girls clubs each year. This year, as the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator SPECTER and I have recommended \$80 million in funding to help keep this organization a strong and vital part of their communities, from coast to coast. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I look forward to seeing that these funds are appropriated for this important work.

Represented in all 50 States, the 3,700 branches of the Boys and Girls Club reach more than 4.4 million young people. The Boys and Girls Club of Burlington alone serves more than 1,400 young people each year. Through continued funding, Boys and Girls Clubs around the country will serve 6 million young people by January of 2007. The growth of these clubs across our country has been a true success story, and I am proud to work to ensure the Federal Government's continued support.

As the Burlington Boys and Girls Club kicks off its capital campaign, I commend all of Vermont's Boys and Girls Clubs, along with all of the other

clubs across our Nation, for the important work they do to help our young citizens become exceptional adults.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENEDICT, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 3, the residents of Benedict will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Benedict was founded in 1906 as a stop on the Soo Line Railroad. The name of the town was derived from the Order of St. Benedict, the order to which most of the Catholic priests in the area belonged.

Today, Benedict remains a small, pleasant agricultural town. The farmers in the area farm mostly wheat, canola, and sunflowers, and the town contains the prosperous McLean Elevator, which draws customers from the surrounding area. The Concordia Lutheran Church continues to be the center of town life.

To celebrate their centennial, the people of Benedict have planned a number of events, including a lawnmower pull, children's games, and a parade.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Benedict, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Benedict and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Benedict that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Benedict has a proud past and a bright future.●

##### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOLNA, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 6 to 8, the residents of Tolna will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Tolna's history began in May 1906, when D.B. Tallman founded the town as a stopping point for trains on the Great Northern Railroad. Tallman's daughter could not pronounce the name "Tallman," so they named the town "Tolna" after the way she pronounced it. The town grew quickly and was settled mostly by German and Norwegian immigrants, many of whose descendants live in Tolna today.

Tolna remains an active and involved community. The Tolna Summer Rec Program sponsors a large number of sports teams for area youth and sports events involving the entire town. The